

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MADRID 02714 111857Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/023 W

-----111859Z 026310 /53

R 111717Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO USINFO WASHDC

USCINCEUR-ECAP

USNMR SHAPE

SECSTATE WASHDC 9730

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MADRID 2714

SECSTATE FOR EUR/IB DURKEE

USIA FOR IOP/F

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT:COMMUNIST LEGALIZATION

1. APRIL 10 MADRID PRESS CALLS LEGALIZATION COMMUNIST PARTY "GOOD NEWS, ABOVE ALL FOR NON-COMMUNISTS, BECAUSE IT CONTRIBUTES TO A CLARIFICATION OF THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND A NORMALIZATION OF THE SITUATION FACING THE ELECTIONS..." (EL PAIS); "A MESUARE THAT WILL SERVE ONLY TO INFLAME PASSIONS AND SPIRITS TOO CLOSE TO ELECTIONS THAT WE ALL WISH TO BE...PEACEFUL" (ABC). "IT IS RIGHT...THAT WE WANT TO SEE IN THIS ACT (LEGALIZATION) A FORMAL INVITATION, WITH TANGIBLE FACTS, TO OVERCOME THE OLD, HARD AND SAD NATIONAL DIFFERENCES." ARRIBA.

2. EDITORIAL IN APRIL 10 EL PAIS (LEFT CENTER) CALLS LEGALIZATION GOOD NEWS "BECAUSE IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO DEMYTHIFYING THE THEME OF COMMUNISM, FINDING ITS TRUE IMPORTANCE AND INFLUENCE IN THE SPANISH SPECTRUM AND ANALIZING THE DEMOCRATIC CREDIBILITY OF ITS PLATFORM...
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MADRID 02714 111857Z

FURTHERMORE, WITHOUT THIS MEASURE THE ELECTIONS OF NEXT JUNE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY REPRESENTATIVE... PLURALISM AND THE EXERCISE OF LIBERTY DO NOT ADMIT IDEOLOGICAL EXCEPTIONS OR TRIMMING. AN LIMITATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS -- AND THERE IS NONE MORE SPECTACULAR THAN DEPRIVING A SECTOR OF THE POPULATION THE RIGHT TO VOTE -- CAN EXTEND ITSELF LIKE A CANCER AND END WITH THE WHOLE

STRUCTURE IN RUINS...THE SITUATION OF ILLEGALITY OF THE PCE...WAS A CLUMSINESS THE PARTY ITSELF MADE GOOD USE OF...THE COMMUNISTS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PUSH THEMSELVES TO GET A RESPECTABLE VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS -- NONE OF THE POLLS OFFERS THEM, FOR THE MOMENT, MORE THAN EIGHT PERCENT-- AND GET RID OF OLD HABITS, LIKE INFILTRATION INTO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, THAT THEY TOOK ON DURING THEIR CLANDESTINE PERIOD. THEY SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT THEY ARE ONE OF THE VERY FEW POLITICAL GROUPS THAT GO TO THE ELECTIONS WITH LEADERS AND IMAGES FROM THE CIVIL WAR, AND THIS SUGGESTS AN ADDITIONAL REJECTION BY SOME SECTORS OF THE POPULATION.

3. "IS THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION OF THE COMMUNISTS MERELY TACTICAL, OR IS IT REALLY FELT? OR IS IT SIMPLY...A NECESSITY, ASSUMED BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF CONVINCING...THE EUROPEANS TO RENOUNCE THEIR TWO-CENTURY-OLD LIBERAL TRADITION?...THE EVOLUTION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNISM IS REAL AND ITS DETACHEMENT FROM MOSCOW IS EVIDENT ENOUGH. THIS IS NOTHING BUT THE MANIFESTATION OF A TRANSFORMATION IMPOSED BY THE EVOLUTION OF THE SOCIETIES OF THE WEST. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, LIBERTY IS A COLLECTIVE GOOD TOO IMPORTANT TO PERMIT ITS DESTRUCTION OR AMPUTATION... HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE IS UNFAVORABLE TO THE COMMUNISTS. WHEREVER THEY LAWLESSLY HOLD POWER, LIBERTY, UNDERSTOOD IN THE WESTERN SENSE, DOES NOT EXIST..."

4. APRIL 10 ABC (DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE) EDITORIAL:
"ABC HAS POINTED OUT OVER THESE LAST MONTHS...THE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MADRID 02714 111857Z

INCONVENIENCE OF PROCEEDING TO LEGALIZE, AT THIS MOMENT, A PARTY OF CLEARLY TOTALITARIAN OUTLINE AND HISTORY AND WHOSE INSERTION INTO SPANISH LEGALITY THE SUPREME COURT SAID WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITHIN THE NEW TEXT OF THE REFORMED PENAL CODE...WE HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN THE NECESSITY OF PROCEEDING WITH THE MOST ELEMENTARY CAUTION... TO ASSURE THE INSTALLATION OF DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRY ...CAUTION WHICH IN EVERY CASE OBLIGES ONE TO LOOK AT, MORE THAN AT THE LETTER OF THE LAWS, THE MEAT OF THE HISTORY OF A PARTY AT WHOSE HEAD CONTINUE THE SAME LEADERS --DOLORES IBARRURI AND SANTIAGO CARRILLO -- AS IN THE TERRIBLE YEARS OF OUR CIVIL STRUGGLE.

5. "WITH NO DESIRE TO DRAMATIZE THINGS WE UNDERSTAND THIS TO BE A GRAVE DECISION AND AN ERROR BY OUR GOVERNMENT, AND WE ONLY DESIRE THAT THE MEN WHO HAVE TAKEN UPON THEMSELVES THIS GREAT RESPONSIBILITY WILL NOT HAVE TO REPENT FOR IT.

6. "SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE EUPHORIC...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE SPANISH...WHO DO NOT WANT
TO TAKE COMMUNION WITH MARXIST-LENINIST IDEAS?".

7. APRIL 10 ARRIBA (CONSERVATIVE): "A HORIZON OF CONCORD,
OF NORMALIZATION UNDER THE CROWN, OF THE OVERCOMING OF
EXCLUSIONS, IS OPENED WITH THE RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT...
WE DO NOT MAKE ANY EVALUATION OF THE WEIGHT OF THE COMMUNIST
PARTY ON THE SPANISH POLITICAL MAP IN THIS COMMENTARY. THAT
WILL BE GIVEN BY THE POLLING BOOTHS AT THE PROPER MOMENT.
BUT WE DO ECHO THE VALUE OF THE DECISION, WHICH WE
FIND POLITICALLY REALISTIC AND JUDICIALLY CORRECT..."

8. APRIL 10 YA (DEMOCRATIC CONSERVATIVE): "IN SYNTHESIS,
WE NOTE THAT AN AUTHENTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM HAS BEEN
RESOLVED...THE SUAREZ GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN UPON ITSELF
ITS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS MATTER AND CAN BE SECURE THAT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 MADRID 02714 111857Z

IT DID SO IN FAVOR OF THE NECESSITIES IMPOSED BY THE
POLITICAL SITUATION. AN INCONGRUENCY WITH THE GENERAL
SYSTEM OF POLITICAL REFORM HAS BEEN RESOLVED, AND THE
ONLY ROAD THAT WE SHOULD ACCEPT IS NOW OPEN: ELECTIONS,
AND THE COMMUNISTS THEMSELVES MUST DEMONSTRATE WITH DEEDS
THAT WHAT THEY CLAIMED IN ORDER TO BECOME LEGAL IS
TRUE. WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH." ITEM.RYLANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LAW, RESOLUTIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID02714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770125-0798
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770470/aaaacild.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6c52fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2845578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMUNIST LEGALIZATION
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, SP, PCE
To: USIA USCINCEUR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6c52fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009